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Senate Republicans punching the clock on JOBS II

LANSING — In conjunction with National Manufacturing Week, Senate Republicans moved one of their bills and a resolution out of committee Wednesday and introduced more job-saving bills today, Sen. Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Twp, announced.

The legislation is part of the second phase of JOBS – “Job Opportunities for Business Success” – a broad Republican plan for revitalizing Michigan’s economy. JOBS II continues the effort of the initial JOBS plan by creating new job opportunities, saving existing jobs, and promoting a friendlier and healthier business climate in Michigan.

“These bills are important to bring Michigan up to speed with the national economic recovery,” Birkholz said. “Each job we can create and each dollar we can save brings us a step closer to retaining business and getting Michigan’s residents back to work.”

The bills introduced today will:

- Create a personal property tax exemption for the first \$10,000 of a business’ personal property value;
- Eliminate taxation of federal and state research funds; and
- Keep business bankruptcy assets in Michigan by providing an incentive for companies to participate in the bankruptcy proceedings of other in-state companies.

A resolution also introduced is aimed at streamlining U.S.- Canadian border issues. It will call on the governor to create a Michigan-Ontario Border Commission to standardize border-related rules and regulations.

The legislation that moved Wednesday is designed to reduce the tax burden for small businesses that hire new employees. It also prevents stringent business standards in Michigan from impeding economic development and job creation.

Already seeing action, Senate Bill 1093 offers companies with less than \$10 million in annual sales a tax credit for hiring new employees. The credit is equal to 1 percent of the compensation paid to the new employees.

(More)

Senate Resolution 224, in opposition to any new or revised administrative rules more stringent than federal policies, is designed to prevent job losses. Companies looking to expand or relocate could lose interest in Michigan because of overly stringent standards.

Senate Republicans plan to introduce other key elements of the JOBS II plan in the coming days, including:

- Providing an equipment tax credit to promote development of high-speed Internet infrastructure;
- Eliminating red-tape nightmares by creating a “bureaucracy buster team” to recommend ways to remove burdensome regulations for businesses; and
- Expanding the use of private labs for state business.

“It is imperative to develop incentives for businesses to stay in Michigan to protect the future of our state,” Birkholz said. “Too many long-rooted companies are pulling up and relocating outside Michigan. This trend must be stopped before it’s too late.”

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